

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01971 251403Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
AGRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 AID-05  
OMB-01 OPR-02 SAB-02 IO-13 HA-05 PC-01 /110 W  
-----048949 251439Z /41

R 242154Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 164  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1971

EO 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, EAGR, ELAB  
SUBJECT: AGRARIAN UNREST: CAMPESINO LAND OCCUPATIONS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 322 (NOTAL)(DTG 182229Z JAN 78)

1. ACCORDING TO NATIONAL CAMPESINO UNION (UNC) SOURCES, AROUND 40 UNC GROUPS OCCUPIED LAND IN A DOZEN LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT HONDURAS OVER LAST TWO WEEKS. THE UNC CLAIMS THAT OVER 2,400 FAMILIES AND 8,000 ACRES ARE INVOLVED. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT GENERAL WORKERS CONFEDERATION, TO WHICH THE UNC IS AFFILIATED, ISSUED A DECLARATION SUPPORTING THIS MEASURE.

2. PURPOSE OF THE LAND OCCUPATION IS TO CALL ATTENTION TO PLIGHT OF LANDLESS CAMPESINOS, SOME OF WHOSE REQUESTS FOR LAND WERE ALLEGEDLY SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE (INA) AS MUCH AS SEVEN YEARS AGO. NO VIOLENCE IS REPORTED TO HAVE OCCURED, ALTHOUGH AT LEAST ONE LOCAL LEADER OF A LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION HAS CALLED FOR NECESSARY MEASURES TO PROTECT "OUR RIGHTS."

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3. COMMENT: CAMPESINO LAND OCCUPATIONS OCCUR ON A MORE OR LESS REGULAR BASIS IN HONDURAS--AND USUALLY WITH MORE FREQUENCY IN THE SPRING MONTHS AS SOWING TIME APPROACHES. THE SITUATION MAY BE MORE INTENSE THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF BASIC SUBSISTENCE CROPS (CORN, BEANS) MUCH OF WHICH HAVE APPARENTLY AND ILLEGALLY BEEN EXPORTED TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES FOR HIGHER PRICES.

THE EMBASSY HAS NOT USUALLY REPORTED EVERY LAND OCCUPATION AS THEY REPRESENT A CONTINUAL ONGOING METHOD FOR CAMPESINO ORGANIZATIONS, BOTH THE UNC AND THE LARGER, DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CAMPESINO ASSOCIATION (ANACH), TO CALL FOR ACTION BY THE INA BUREAUCRACY. THE UNC'S CLAIMS HAVE NOT BEEN CONFIRMED, BUT IT IS EVIDENT THE PRESENT INCIDENT IS BIGGER THAN ANY THAT HAVE OCCURRED FOR SOME TIME. AFTER THEIR POINT IS MADE, THE CAMPESINOS NORMALLY DISPERSE UNDER A LEGAL ORDER ISSUED BY INA, AS NOW SEEMS TO BE OCCURRING WITH THIS ONE ALSO. NEWSPAPER PHOTOS BEING SENT TO ARA/CEN/H,

4. THE HONDURAN MILITARY AND POLICE HAVE GENERALLY BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN MOVING PEOPLE OFF PRIVATE LAND WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENTS. ONE EXCEPTION TO THIS WAS THE VIOLENT JUNE 1975 OUTBURST RESULTING FROM GROWING AGRARIAN UNREST IN OLANCHO PROVINCE (REFTEL). THE GOH DOES HAVE AN AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM THAT ATTEMPTS TO MEET CAMPESINO NEEDS ALTHOUGH CLEARLY NOT SATISFYING ALL. THE PROTESTS ARE TO URGE MORE RAPID IMPLEMENTATION, AND ARE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. THE POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE ALWAYS EXISTS, OF COURSE, GIVEN THE ESPECIALLY EMOTIONAL ATTITUDE THAT ATTACHES TO LAND. NO DOUBT INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURED IN OTHER AREAS THAT DO NOT COME TO PUBLIC ATTENTION. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ANY SUCH INCIDENTS ARE INSPIRED OR CONDONED BY THE GOH WHOSE POLICY IS TO PURSUE AGRARIAN REFORM UNDER ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS. END COMMENT.  
JARAMILLO

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LAND, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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